



CONTACT: Mary Jane Collipriest, 202-224-5444, Washington, D.C. 20510

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BENNETT PRAISES PRESERVATION OF 600 ACRES OF UTAH WETLANDS

Bennett instrumental in forging agreement

WASHINGTON D.C. – Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) today congratulated private landowners and officials of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for an agreement that will restore and protect 600 acres of wetlands and upland wildlife habitat near Park City.

"By participating in this program, the Swaner Memorial Park Foundation is ensuring that its lands, important open space located in one of the fastest growing areas of the state, will be preserved for future generations while improving its wetland qualities," Bennett said. "I am pleased to have played a part in bringing together the landowners and the federal government to the ultimate benefit of both parties and the environment."

The \$1.7 million contract came together under the Wetlands Reserve Program, and will guarantee that 600 acres of land in the Snyderville Basin will be preserved in perpetuity. Bennett acted as a liaison between the Swaner foundation and the federal agency through the process, earning thanks from the landowners.

"We appreciate Senator Bennett's participation and support of the public/private partnership that has made this agreement possible," said Paula Swaner-Sargetakis, daughter of the late Leland S. Swaner in whose honor the park was created.

Under the Wetlands Reserve Program landowners receive financial compensation and assistance in enhancing the value of wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal agricultural land. The Wetlands Reserve Program was authorized by Congress in 1985 and was amended in the 1990 and 1996 Farm Bills and is administered by the NRCS in consultation with the Farm Service Agency and other federal agencies.

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